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EO 12958 DECL: 01/11/2019
TAGS FREL, MAPP, PL

SUBJECT: POLAND WANTS LIVE PATRIOTS, "NOT POTTED PLANTS"

REF: 10 AUGUST 2008 U.S. NON PAPER ON DEPLOYMENT OF A U.S. PATRIOT BATTERY IN POLAND

Classified By: Ambassador Victor H. Ashe for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (S) SUMMARY. GOP officials are not privy to the full range of U.S. planning and thinking with regard to the prospective Patriot battery rotation. PATRIOTS AND MD - CONNECTED OR NO?

[1](#)2. (S) The proposed Patriot rotation was a condition of Polish agreement to sign the Ballistic Missile Defense Agreement (BMDA), and the U.S.

[1](#)3. (S) The question of Patriots in Poland hung (largely silently) over the BMDA negotiations for much of last spring. The final breakthrough

[1](#)4. (S) Since then both sides have used this connection to urge greater negotiating energy on the part of the other: the U.S. saying clearly that WHEN IS A PATRIOT A PATRIOT?

[1](#)5. (S) The Declaration of Strategic Cooperation outlines some parameters for the proposed Patriot "deployment," allowing that a Patriot battery

[1](#)6. (S) However, this is a good juncture to point out the most glaring gap in understanding between us and the Poles. The Poles have not been told WHAT IS A GARRISON? WHAT IS JOINT TRAINING?

[1](#)7. (S) The GOP also has a different concept of the footprint involved when the U.S. agreed (also in the Declaration) to establish a "garrison." COMMENT

[1](#)8. (S) We need to navigate the way forward carefully. We may be able to close some of the gaps between our plans and the Poles' expectations with ASHE